Loss due to drought in Kerala

2590. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fact that the loss due to drought in the State of Kerala is likely to be greater as the cash crops of the State once damaged, need four-five years to grow as against the seasonal crops like rice and wheat of North India; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to work out a different set of criteria in order to assess the loss suffered by the State and to provide relief commensurate with the heavy and durable loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

New Guidelines on High Rise Buildings

2591. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued any new guidelines on high-rise buildings in Delhi; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what are the reasons for which the ban on high-rise buildings has been lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no general ban on the construction of the multi-storeyed buildings in Delhi. Revised guidelines have been issued which *inter-alia* provide that high-rise constructons in Delhi may continue to be regulated subject to the compliance with conditions of the urban design clearance, fire fighting requirtments and requirements under other provisions like the Master Plan, Zoning Regulations, Building bye-laws, etc.; which will be further subject to the modifications that the space to be constructed should be guided by per-floor coverage and floor area ratio norms.

Creation of a Urban Transport Consortium Fund

2592. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create an Urban Transport-Consortium Fund to help in the development of transport infrastructure in urban areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The modalities of operation of this fund, including the appropriate institutional arrangements, are likely to be worked during 1988-89. It may be set up during 1988-89.

Retaining the staff of the SAIL

2593. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL had decided to retain and not to retrench its staff, as decided earlier; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) SAIL have decided to rationalise its manpower *inter alia* by retaining and redeployment so as to avoid retrenchment.